Expenditure on salaries to Government employees

†*548. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is considerable increase in expenditure on salaries to Government employees since the year 2003-04 and the number of employees has also increased;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the increase recorded during the year 2004-05 compared to the year 2003-04; and

(c) the estimated amount to be spent during the year 2005-06 on the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The actual expenditure on salaries of the Central Government employees (excluding Defence personnel) for 2003-04 was Rs.32,154 crores. The actual figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are not yet available. The Revised Estimate for 2004-05 is Rs.35,339.13 crores and the Budget Estimate for 2005-06 is Rs.37,234.33 crores.

The actual strength of the Central Government employees (excluding Defence personnel) has decreased from 33,17,334 in the year 2003 to 33,12,237 in the year 2004. The actual strength for 2005 is not available.

(c) The Budget Estimate on expenditure on salaries for 2005-06 stands at Rs.37,234.33 crores.

Proposals for big irrigation projects

†*552. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for big irrigation projects all over the country pending with the Central Government for approval; and

(b) the number of proposals which pertain to Orissa and Himachal Pradesh and the number of these proposals which have been approved and their present status?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.